

Seoul, Korea

January 5, 1891

Horace N. Allen

My dear Dr. Ellinwood:

On receiving your favor by last mail regarding Dr. McGill I saw Mr. Moffett and explained the position to him. The Japanese doctor here has shown much skill and has worked into most of my good Korean practice - even before Heron's death. He wants the hospital and some Koreans of high rank want him to have it. All this and other things I explained to Moffett. I also gave over the hospital to the Mission formally that they might be free in their action. The McGill matter not being satisfactory (to them, I think him a good man), they propose my letting Dr. Hardie [Canadian] do the hospital work under my supervision till a doctor could be sent out. I agreed and installed Dr. Hardie, going with him till he got used to it. He is a young man without experience and does not seem to take well. I trust you will soon send a doctor. You say you hope I can do the foreign practice. I cannot. It is in the hands of the Japanese, Dr. Scranton and the Englishman. The government [presumably U.S.] would not allow me to do it.

You say you are glad I am friendly with Judge Denny. I am not. I have refused to shake hands with him or to return his call. I could not so demean myself. I said in illustration that he and his wife seemed to regret the unnecessary pains they had taken to injure me and were the first to come, but I am sorry you got the idea that I would "bootlick" him. My later letters will tell you something of the crimination of his wife and himself. They have hung on here trying to extort money from the Koreans till the Minister was appealed to and to use his (Denny's) graphic expression, he was "kicked out". Ex U.S. Consul General C.R. Greathouse of Yokohama, has just been gazetted Vice President of the Home Office, etc.

I now have a home. The comfortable house I now live in was presented to me by the King.

I think Moffett and I now understand each other and will be able to assist each other. Underwood seems to be on the decline so far as usefulness is concerned.

The English mission people are making a great spread here. So are the Methodists. I think with care and united action our people can keep in the lead. Prospects are good but you ought to have more workers.

I received a kind letter from Dr. Nevius my last mail. Give him my regards if he is still with you.

Rev. Charles Lee of Carbondale of whom you speak is one of the salt of the earth. I wish you knew him better.

With kind regards, I am

Most Sincerely yours,

H.N. Allen

(from the Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PCUSA Board of Foreign Missions, Korea Correspondence, microfilm reel #175, Vol. 3, letter #1)

Seoul, Korea

January 6, 1891

Underwood & Gifford

Dear Dr. Ellinwood,

We as a committee of two to confer with Dr. McGill have been instructed to write you of the recent actions of the Korean Mission relative to the Medical department of the Mission. At our December meeting the following communication was read from Dr. Allen.

To the Presbyterian Mission, Seoul Korea, December 30, 1890

At the request of the Korean Government and the Board of Missions, I have carried on the Government Hospital for the past five months, pending the arrival of a physician. Sometime since, Dr. Ellinwood informed me that I could turn the institution over to the Mission. But as there was no medical member to whom I could surrender charge, matters seemed to be in no more satisfactory condition than when I took temporary charge of the work. I am now just in receipt of a letter from Dr. Ellinwood informing me of the appointment of Dr. McGill, as its medical missionary here, and asking me to cooperate with him. As the need is thus supplied, I hereby hand the work over to the Mission and I shall be very happy to assist the new physician in getting established. It will be necessary to communicate the fact of the new appointment to the President of the Foreign Office who looks after the hospital.

I am very respectfully,

H.N. Allen

We, as a committee of two were instructed to communicate to Dr. McGill the contents of your letter of October 21<sup>st</sup>, authorizing us to employ him for six months. His statement was that, as his salary had been stopped by the M.E. [Methodist] Mission and he was thus left without means of support, he had concluded a temporary arrangement with the Methodist Mission to take charge of their new hospital until the arrival of their Bishop sometime in the Spring. The following action was taken by the Mission. "Moved that the chairman, Mr. Moffett, be appointed a committee of one to wait on Dr. Allen, express to him our thanks for his services in the past and, stating the peculiar relations existing between the Mission and Dr. McGill, request that he [Dr. Allen] nominally continue his position as physician to the hospital with Dr. Hardie (the young Canadian doctor) to assist him till we can secure a physician from home."

Mr. Moffett saw Dr. Hardie and while he was not open to a permanent engagement, as it his desire to go to the country at an early date, he agreed to take up the work under the supervision of Dr. Allen. Mr. Moffett saw Dr. Allen and an arrangement satisfactory to all concerned was concluded. Dr. Allen, however, expressed the desire to turn the hospital over to a regular medical representative of our Board at the earliest possible date, and asked us to telegraph to the Board for a physician for the hospital. Acting upon his request the telegram was sent which

1/06/1891 - p.2 Underwood & Gifford

you have doubtless received. Inasmuch as Dr. Allen is anxious to turn over the hospital at an early date; as Dr. Hardie wishes to leave soon for the country; and since Dr. Scranton must leave soon for America with his sick child, it is not unlikely that matters will be arranged amicably between Dr. McGill and the M.E. Mission; and further, should he join us, in the interests of comity between Missions, there is no probability that the Mission would reverse its action of August 26<sup>th</sup>, which endorses his application with the recommendation that he be sent to a new station. We would add that it is the earnest hope of the Mission that ere this reaches you, a new physician to take charge of the Government Hospital, shall already be on his way to Korea.

Yours most Sincerely,

H.G. Underwood  
D.L. Gifford (Committee of Mission)

Seoul, Korea

January 27, 1891

Program for Annual Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> Day.

9:30 to 10. Communion Service

10. Election of Officers. Sec. Records.

11. Presentation of Rules & By Laws, by H.G. Underwood.

Reports of Standing Committees.

Building Com. H.G. Underwood

Walls. D.L. Gifford

Literary Work - Tracts & Bible. H.G. Underwood

Church Session. S.A. Moffett

Afternoon.

2. Theological Class. D.L. Gifford.  
Colporteurs & Evangelism H.G. Underwood.

3. Orphanage. S.A. Moffett

4. Girls' School. S.A. Doty.

Evening

7:30 Statistics. S.A. Moffett

8:30 Appointment of Standing Committees, Auditing Com. & Bible Com., etc.

2<sup>nd</sup> Day. (Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>)

9:30. Devotional Exercises.

10. Woman's Work. (With supplemental Report.)

11. Medical Work. Mr. Moffett & Mrs. Underwood

Afternoon

2. Appropriations.

Evening.

Social

List of Appropriations.

Salaries, Allowance, Teachers, Orphanage Teachers, House Repairs, Itinerating, Colporteurs & Evangelism, Tracts, Orphanage, Girls' School, Support of Boys (partial) in School, Medical Work, Woman's Work, Winter Theological Class, Taxes, Translation.

New Work & Stations

Respectfully submitted,

D.L. Gifford } Committee  
S.A. Doty }

Korean Mission Annual Meeting Reports:Report of Building Committee: (by Rev. Mr. Underwood)

Canadian [?] Union Mission & the Knox College Y.M.C.A. have been allowed to temporarily occupy the building. One room has been with a good degree of success opened as a Sunday School room and hall for Gospel services. The only other change in the property of the Mission that your Committee would call attention to is the erection of the Korean reception room at the entrance of Mr. Underwood's compound which was put up without cost to the Mission. Your Committee would take this opportunity of recommending the appropriation of funds for the erection of similar buildings in front of and near the main entrance to the homes of the other male members of the Mission, that the house should be surely Korean, built in an inexpensive but attractive manner, to cost not more than four hundred dollars. Your committee would further recommend that plans for two new houses be soon decided upon so that the offer of Messrs. Horton, Gilmore, McWilliams & Co. to provide the roofing and hardware may be accepted in time to have the materials here if possible for use during the coming summer.

Report of Medical Department: (by Rev. S.A. Moffett)

This report deals only with the relations of the Mission to the Government Hospital, and the work of Dr. Heron. The hospital which was under the care of Dr. Heron for five years has since his death been under the charge of Dr. Allen; but is now temporarily supplied by Dr. Hardie of the Toronto Y.M.C.A. Of Dr. Heron's work as Physician to the King, and many of the nobility, his practice among the foreigners, which enabled him to purchase drugs and instruments, and his work in the hospital it is unnecessary to enter into detail; but in this final report it should be stated that his work has not ceased. He opened the houses of many of the most influential people of Korea and those doors are being kept open by his wife, who is visiting the families of these people, teaching of Christ and leaving Christian books and tracts. The Mission has received from the Medical Department the house and lot costing \$1043.99, which originally purchased with a view to use as a dispensary, was this year converted into a dwelling to be occupied by Mr. Moffett. The deeds of this house are now in the hands of the Mission Treasurer. Accompanying this report is a financial statement of the Medical Department under Dr. Heron and the Committee appointed to settle the accounts. It begins with April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1890, the date of Dr. Heron's last report and ends with the date of this report, at which time all the assets are turned over to the Mission.

Financial Statement of Medical Department under Dr. Heron

		<u>Receipts.</u>
Cash on Hand April 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$443.00	
Customs Department		140.00
British Legation		411.03
Rev. Coste		24.00
Salary from the King		848.70
Chinese Legation		167.50
Mr. Hunt		28.00
Judge Denny		105.00
Morse Townsend & Co.		74.16
Carl Walter		50.00
Insurance Ex. Certificate		10.00
Payment of Kim Chen Sa's note		100.00
Drugs		66.78
Payment of F.J.H. Nienstead's bill		104.49
		<hr/>
		\$2570.87

(from the Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PCUSA Board of Foreign Missions, Korea Correspondence, microfilm reel #175, Vol. 3, letter #2)

Report of Orphanage from January 1<sup>st</sup> 1890 to January 1<sup>st</sup> 1891

During the year the School has been very irregularly governed, having been under the separate or joint charge of Mr. Davies [Australian missionary], Dr. Heron, Mr. Gifford, Mr. Underwood and Mr. Moffett. It began the year with 20 pupils, and instruction was given in Chinese, native En mun [Korean script], and English. In September the school was reorganized. The teaching of English was discontinued, old employees were dismissed, and Mr. Gale was requested to superintend it for a few months with a view to getting it upon a satisfactory basis. It began in September with 21 pupils, which number, by dismissals and withdrawals has been reduced to 15. Two new boys were received on trial, and upon the understanding that they go home for the summer. The expenses for the year amount to \$1840.55 in silver. At present the expense is about \$115.00 a month, which will be materially reduced in summer. The Superintendent engaged when Mr. Gale left receives \$10.00 a month, and food for his family, and two servants; for which they make, mend and wash the clothes, prepare the food, carry water and do all the work of the school. The Chinese teacher receives \$7.00 a month, and food; and gives instruction in Chinese, the native En mun, and Korean etiquette.

Both the Superintendent and teacher are Christians and give daily instruction in the Scriptures. Biblical instruction and a good foundation in the study of Chinese are the main purposes of the school. Two of the scholars have become professing Christians and seven applied for baptism. It is recommended that as soon as practicable, the orphanage be converted into a boys' school providing only partial support for the pupils. To continue the school as it is now will require an appropriation of \$1200 gold as follows: Teachers \$200.00; repairs 100.00; running expenses \$900.00.

Seoul, Korea

February 11, 1891

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Your letter of Nov. 24 was gladly received and your recent letters to the Mission have made us all rejoice in the prospect of re-enforcements. As you will see from our request for new missionaries we believe the time has come to be ready for a steady progress in bringing the gospel into contact with this people and we are especially desirous of pushing evangelistic work among men and women.. In addition to the reports sent you at this time I have but a few words to add bearing upon the way in which my time has been occupied this last year. I came fully determined that nothing should interfere with my study of the language, but found such a peculiarly disturbed condition of things here that my duty seemed to be to first of all seek to bring harmony of action in the mission, to bring order out of chaos, and consequently while inwardly protesting I have felt compelled to give considerable time to solving mission problems, straightening financial matters, re-adjusting the orphanage, and to the adoption of rules for the mission so as to avoid the friction which has resulted from having no settled policy.

The existing situation has demanded some "red tape" but I believe it will help us to harmonious action and at the same time leave us more free to devote ourselves to the language and the people instead of to a succession of discussions on every question which may or can be raised.

The orphanage was practically without supervision and subject to many abuses and I felt forced to give it attention. It is not yet in a satisfactory condition for it is far more difficult to re-adjust a school than it is to begin at the beginning, especially when one has so little knowledge of the language and customs. The Mission has approved the suggestion that it be converted into a Boys' School furnishing only partial support - and I believe it ought at once to be turned over to the charge of one especially adapted to school work and who will have permanent charge of the educational work.

You seem to be under the impression that we have had both a Boys' School and an orphanage but the latter alone has been established. The building which was erected for a school has never been so used. It is now planned to convert it into a dwelling for the new Doctor who can use the outbuildings for a dispensary or hospital for which they are admirably adapted. We hope also that the new Doctor may take up the government hospital under more favorable conditions.

Mr. and Mrs. Baird have arrived and are settled in my house where they will probably remain for a year, as in the judgment of the Mission they should have one year of work on the Seoul dialect before going to Fusan. During the year land will be purchased and arrangements made for building.

My first year having been so divided between language study and the details & problems of Mission work I begin the second year more free for language



2/11/91 - p.2 S.A.M.

study. With this in view Mr. Gale and I have arranged for a 3 or 4 months itinerary when we expect to do considerable language study and evangelistic work. We will visit Syong Tyo and Ping An which I visited last fall and then go further north to Eui Ju crossing into China to see how thickly the border land is peopled with Koreans and to see the result of Mr. Ross's work there; thence we will return by way of Gensan [Wonsan].

Have just heard that Ping An (the unpronounceable name of my fall letter - I'll follow the English spelling hereafter) is to be opened to foreigners in which case I doubt not the Mission will ask for two men to go there just as soon as the Board is able to send them. Mr. Gale and I will thus visit each point, except Fusan, which we hope to see entered and upon our return will have more of the language and be better prepared to plan for opening new stations. It is difficult to plan very far ahead because of the numerous and sudden changes on the field. When I wrote you last Dr. Hardie and Mr. Gale expected to settle in Eui Ju but since then their plans have been completely frustrated. I understand that Dr. Hardie will leave Korea and enter the Canadian Methodist Mission in Japan and Mr. Gale received word from his Committee that he would have to come home next fall. This has led the latter to apply to you for appointment as he has become thoroughly interested in the work among Koreans and does not wish to leave it. His application has been unanimously endorsed by the Mission and we are rejoicing in the prospect of having him work as one of us. He is an out-and-out missionary, a splendid student, a spiritually minded man and a most agreeable companion in work. He has good command of the Korean language and a hold upon the hearts of Koreans and seems to me is just the man we want to open a new station. If appointed he will have been on the field nearly three years. His teacher is one of the best instructed Christians and will make a valuable helper. He & his teacher could be sent to Ping An, Eui Ju, or Gensan and begin work there at very little expense and we would thus see without delay what we have longed for - namely - work begun on a permanent basis outside of Seoul.

The Lord has dealt the Korea Mission some pretty severe blows but now he is certainly revealing a brighter side of things. I believe there are rich blessings in store for our work in Korea and we pray that the Board will be enabled to give us many new men.

I have but one thing more to mention and that is with reference to letter writing. I have not been able to write anything for the papers, it being rather difficult for me to do so under any circumstances, but have written to several Missionary Societies, Mission Boards and Christian Endeavor Societies. With the numerous letters you have to write you appreciate the difficulty of doing all that one wishes in this respect. With kindest regards to all.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

Seoul, Korea

February 23, 1891

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

With this mail goes the application of Mr. Gale which the Mission instructed Mr. Underwood & me as a Committee to forward with the endorsement of the Mission.

Your letter of Jan 5 to the Mission received today. It places our school in rather a peculiar position. The appropriation is exhausted and unless we draw on the \$500 allowed for boys' school it must close at once. I so reported at last meeting of Mission and in the emergency they approved an order on the treasurer although the appropriation is exhausted. The orphanage is now a boys' school and in fair way to become a helpful factor in our work. The boys now there are receiving thorough Biblical instruction and a solid foundation in Chinese.

I believe I have given particulars in other letters and trust you will have just such information as you desired.

I do not see how Mr. and Mrs. Underwood can help going home this fall and hope if they do we shall have Mr. Gale to take up part of his work.

Very Sincerely,  
S.A. Moffett

P.S. Since writing the above, your letter of January 7 to me has been received. It was delayed a little on account of postage due. I think your questions will in great part be answered by the report made at annual meeting. I cannot give you very satisfactory accounts of the financial affairs of the orphanage as they have not been in my hands except for a few months.

Heretofore students were received and provided with a home for the whole year, food, clothing, instruction, etc. The native superintendent drew money as needed and so far as I could learn rendered no account of it. This was changed in Sept. and new men employed who render account to me & receive all funds from me, but as yet I can give no accurate reports as to expense as only part of year has been covered and that the most expensive time of year. Boys are now received only on condition that they go home during summer and furnish partial support. The building is a native one adjoining Mr. Gifford's house and in front of Mr. Underwood's & my compounds. It is large - all one story - and has three parts, one the superintendent's quarters, one containing kitchen, dining room and boys sleeping rooms, and one the Chinese school, the latter a separate building. It is admirably adapted for use as a native school of any kind high or low and is valuable property to the mission.

I am not a draughtsman but will ask Mr. Gale to prepare a pen and ink sketch of the city such as you desire if he can find time for it before leaving for the trip to the country.

I am more than busy today and this is written very hastily but I trust will help to throw light upon the question. We ought to have \$300 of the \$500 for running the school the three months of February. March., and April

Very Sincerely Yours,  
S.A. Moffett

*Consolidated California*  
*and*  
*Virginia Mining Company*  
*58 Nevada Block*

*Chas. H. Fish*  
*President*

*J.W. Havens*  
*Secretary*

*San Francisco, Feb. 24, 1891*

Dear Fannie & Tho[mas]. Fletcher, [children of Thomas Fletcher Fish's brother, Henry]

Your letter received & I was pleased to see that you both write so well & the spelling beats that of someone I know who never wrote a letter until he was 13 years old & then it was not so good a letter as yours.

I am glad when I hear you have snow because you are almost always sure to have rain & that makes beans grow. We had a dreadful shipwreck here last Saturday night & 19 men [were] lost with the ship & all the cargo.

I had a letter from Lucia [his daughter, Lucia Hester Fish, second wife of Samuel Austin Moffett] a few days ago & she & Aunt Lucia [his sister] are getting along nicely in Los Angeles & Aunt Mary [another of his sisters] has moved from her house down town & opened a shop where little girls & boys come every day to learn to paint pictures & when they learn they never have to do any hard work but just make marks on a paper or board with their paint brush & after they have been dead a few hundred years the pictures sell for a great deal of money.

Give a great deal of love to your Father and Mother from us all.

Your affectionate

Uncle Tom

[Thomas Fletcher Fish, brother of Charles Hull Fish, worked with Charles Fish in the Consolidated California and Virginia Mining Company for a time. He was the grandfather of Samuel Hugh, Howard Fergus and Thomas Fish Moffett]

(From the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

Seoul, Korea

February 24, 1891

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

At my request Mr. Gale very hastily prepared the rough sketch of Seoul which will give you some idea of the location of Mission property. He promises a more accurate one upon his return from the country.

I am not able to give you an estimate of the value of the different properties because of insufficient knowledge but trust upon conference we shall be able to send you a correct estimate ere long. The property has not cost the Mission nearly as much as its present value - the Boys' School for instance worth some \$2,000 having cost only \$450.

I can only give you an idea of value of some of the property as I have learned their cost.

Mr. Gifford's House & Lot	(Gold value)	\$3000
Boys School		2000
"Lower School"		4000
Property adjoining English Legation		800
Mr. Moffett's House & Lot (occupied by Mr. Baird)		1000

This is only a rough estimate.

Mr. Baird & Mr. Underwood have just started for Fusan. Hope to write you from Eui Ju.

Sincerely,

S.A. Moffett

Seoul, Korea

February 27, 1891

Daniel L. Gifford

Dear Dr. Ellinwood,

Your sympathetic letter of January 11<sup>th</sup> has just been received and I wish to express to you my gratitude for the kind words it contained. As this is the time of annual reports I take pleasure in sitting down with you for a friendly, quiet review of the year. It has been a busy, busy eventful year for me. The eventful part of it has chiefly centered around my happy marriage to Miss Hayden that occurred, you may remember, in the early spring. Our wedding journey found Shanghai at the height of the springtime glory and was delightful; and we found profitable in the extreme the Shanghai Conference as a school for the study of mission methods.

One thing that makes my work hardest for me, and tends to the result of my having very little time that I can call my own, is that I feel a duty not only to the Koreans, but also to the foreigners of the Seoul community. The result of that sense of duty is that I get into a good many offices that take time and thought. In the early part of the year I filled the office of President of the Christian Literary Union, a religious-literary society, the subjects of whose papers relate half to missionary topics and half to literary and scientific topics pertaining to Korea. As President I helped to broaden the scope of the institution and by personal invitations increased the attendance. The Christian Literary Union has as an adjunct a cozy Reading Room with English and American papers and periodicals, part contributed and part subscribed for. Here during the winter are held monthly sociables, attended by missionaries and by members of the foreign community. Of the Reading Room I have been Treasurer, and a member of the Executive Committee.

Since May I have been Pastor of the Union Church. The congregation is composed of members of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Canadian Missions, with a sprinkling of outside people. My work as Pastor has had chiefly to do with the raising of funds for the purchase of a site for the Union Church. In passing, I would say that in my relations to the foreign community I have held unflinchingly to the belief that the missionaries, if they are to associate with the people of the foreign community, must insist that the community come up to our principles with regard to amusements, etc., considered among Christian people as debatable. The English mission and American Ministers recently put their heads together to run away with our Reading Room and make a respectable Club out of it. But owing to the unbending Puritanism of a few of us the plan fell through.

To pass to direct Mission work. My year has gone mostly into routine work. We are getting our work into more systematic shape, and it has taken time and thought. I am treasurer of the Mission. For the six months intervening between the death of Dr. Heron and the late Annual Meeting I have been Secretary of the Mission. Until about the first of May, during Mr. Underwood's absence in Japan, I had the superintendence of the evangelistic work of the Mission; part of the time, however, Mr. Davies [newly-arrived Australian missionary] shared the responsibility. I am at present, Chairman of the Mission.

A great part of my time in the spring went into the superintendence of the completion of my house. Until summer I conducted religious exercises and taught two classes in the Orphanage; since then one class. The idea of dawning the teaching of English was pressed upon the Mission by myself after attendance upon the Shanghai Conference. In passing, I wish to speak in praise of the excellent work Mr. Moffett has done in reorganizing the Boys' School (the former Orphanage). It was in an unsatisfactory condition until he took it in charge. The terrible cut down of our appropriations compelled

the doing of something. He swept the institution clean of superintendent, teachers, and servants. Then he handed the school over to Mr. Gale as superintendent, who lived in the building in thoroughly native style. English was discarded and the curriculum was cut down to the study of Chinese and the Bible. A number of boys left us, and a lot more were discharged. Expenses were cut down to the very [minimum]. This continued for a few months, when Mr. Gale gave place for a Korean. And now, best of all, we have over the school a native teacher and a native superintendent (under foreign supervision) whom I consider to be thorough-going Christian men. Good work is now being done by the boys and they are under thoroughly Christian influences.

If it is best to have a boys' school, and that I believe is the present judgment of the Mission (at any rate till something better develops out of our work), the Boys' School as at present conducted, I consider is on a sound and profitable basis. To return to myself, in the fall I took a short trip to Song Do which, brief as it was, makes me long for more of touring work. I have been a member of a committee that has had in charge the settlement of the accounts of the Medical Department. This has taken some little time to gather in. Apropos, I may say that I am very sorry that it seemed necessary for us to take the course that we did in the case of Dr. Allen. Because he was not quite frank with us, we could not tell exactly what were his purposes. However, things have come out all right. My wife and I have taken particular pains to show Dr. and Mrs. Allen kindnesses; and I am quite sure he has been able to distinguish between me as myself, and as an agent of the Presbyterian Board.

Sometime since, I had the *Story of the Gospel* (practically a Life of Christ) translated by an English-speaking Korean into the native dialect. The translation was good; but the spelling was wretched. While engaged in correcting the spelling I have made it a text-book for the study of a religious vocabulary. I may state that recently I have made a radical change in my method of study, approaching the language less from the book side, and more from the side of the colloquial.

Among other Mission duties I have had the superintendence of the repair of roads passing in front of the Mission compounds.

During the year I have sent some half a dozen articles from Korea to the religious press. I have been superintendent of the weekly meeting of the native Christians for prayer and Bible study. In this I have been the cause of the laying aside of lectures and the substitution of the catechetical study of the Word. I also teach one of the classes in the Sunday School Sabbath afternoons. And I do some little personal work at my house.

When the Winter Theological Class was in from the country, I took the class through the Gospel of John, preparing a series of questions which, with the aid of my teacher, were translated and written out for them. That upon which I set the least value, I think, has been the most used of God. At the close of the season of study, I prepared for them a series of texts gathered by the evangelist Dr. Marshall, to be used with different classes of inquirers. My teacher recently went to the country for the Korean holidays [Lunar New Year]. On his journey God blessed the use of these texts in the conversion of six men. I want to say a word here about my teacher and my plans for the future. I chose him in the first place, not only for his teaching qualities, but also because I thought I saw in him the possibilities of usefulness as a preacher.

For a time I thought I had missed it, when I detected him in a discreditable

transaction. But the course which I took with him, severe yet kindly, brought him to a true repentance of his sin and of his sins. Since then he has been a changed man. Eventually I took him back: I have had the joy of seeing him develop a rich Christian experience. And our helper in Seoul frequently falls back on him as a lieutenant. But to the point: I had a portion of the city assigned to me for work a time ago. My desire has been to establish a class in its vicinity for the study of the Bible to meet a couple of half days in the week, composed of middle class Koreans; that is, petty officials or the higher grade of merchants - men in comfortable circumstances and who have a Chinese education. I do so because I believe in the middle class of a country - and because I believe the truth can spread the more readily upward and downward out of the middle class. My teacher and I had the men in view, and the center of work fixed upon, and our plans almost consummated when that "Old Man of the Mountain", routine work, again settled upon my back. Mr. Moffett is off to the country for four months and Mr. Underwood is off to Fusan with Mr. Baird to look up the site of the new station. The result of it is that I am swamped with the addition of their work to my own. I have been trying to cut down and simplify my work, both outside and inside the Mission. Perhaps I will succeed. If not, I will surrender myself to the idea that God wants me to serve him as a routine man.

Our poor Mission has had a hard time of it during the past year, but we are still clinging to God with a cheery hopefulness for the future.

Yours sincerely,

D.L. Gifford

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Before mentioning the important business which causes me to write this letter now, I will give you a brief report of our trip to this place.

Mr. Gale and I with Mr. Saw our native evangelist left Seoul February 25 for a tramp to North Korea. We took 2 horses to carry our blankets, books, etc., but concluded to make the journey on foot as we wanted to be free to stop anywhere without having the expense of paying for so many horses. We have come 1060 li (350 miles) and have preached the gospel in city, town & village all along the way. Our evangelist is a thorough Christian & a man who commands respect & attention everywhere. He preaches & teaches the plain truths of the gospel from an experience of 15 years, being one of those who came to us through Mr. Ross of Moukden.

We stayed in Ping Yang five days having service there on Sunday. The Mission had given me authority to purchase a house there under the \$400 appropriation of the Board, but as we have not yet a reliable man to put in charge the purchase was not made. I was again impressed with the desirability of having a Christian worker there and have some hopes that one of the two professing Christians there will develop into a trustworthy man. We found several inquirers there, but the people are as yet very suspicious of foreigners and afraid of Christian books. We reached this city of Eui Ju on the border of China on March 20, having enjoyed the walk, kept in good health and as I believe had a very successful trip so far as evangelistic work is concerned.

It is in reference to this place that I wish to write. Mr. Underwood has always laid great emphasis upon the importance of opening a station here and I now understand why. We have been most delightfully surprised at the condition of things here. We find a body of from 20 to 30 Christians, many of them at work and freely talking of the gospel. On Sunday there were 30 present at service and we have been having visitors morning, afternoon & night with whom we are having Bible readings while our evangelist and the evangelist located here have been in another room talking all day & late into the night concerning the gospel. The people here are not afraid of the gospel as they are so near China that they have heard of it for 20 years. Here is the center of the work done by Mr. Ross & he now has a colporteur here who has been distributing books along the border. Our evangelist located here, Mr. Paik, was one of Ross' first converts, has been a Christian for about 17 years and was the first man to speak to our Seoul evangelist who came from here & who has been a Christian 15 years. Here also lives the man who assisted Mr. Ross in his Korean translation of the New Testament. A number of the lower officials here are professing Christians and also a number of merchants so that all classes are favorably disposed. One of the Christians who attended the Theol. Class in Seoul lives 40 miles from here and reports a class of 10 men whom he has been teaching and who desire baptism.

The Methodists also have a colporteur here and have a native house for the center of their work & in this their missionaries stay while here. When I saw Ping Yang last year I thought we ought to begin work there at once and I still think so but I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that this is a far more urgent case and that I should be willing to see Ping Yang wait several years rather than delay entering here.

Mr. Gale and I have made inquiries concerning a house here and find a splendid large house, or rather two houses connected, in center of a field large enough to ensure sunlight



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& fresh air. This place can be bought for from \$400 to \$500 and I hope if the mission approves that soon after we return to Seoul about June 1st the Board will give us permission to buy here instead of or in addition to Ping Yang.

Then if the way be clear and the Board appoints Mr. Gale as a member of the mission, it seems to me he is just the man to come here, occupy this house, and then the station is opened. Mr. Gale speaks the language freely, has lived in Korean houses & on Korean food most of the 2½ years he has been here and has won the hearts of Koreans.

From here we expect to go to Moukden to see Mr. Ross concerning his work along the border of Korea after which we hope to visit those towns in which it is reported there are a number of Christians & inquirers. This borderland has as yet not been visited by a foreigner and no one certainly knows just how densely it is populated by Koreans.

I write of Eui Ju now hoping that you will give permission to buy a house here - if the mission approves - and that we may hear from you soon after our return to Seoul.

The seed which has been sown here has been sown principally by Presbyterians and we ought to reap this harvest which is now ready. Whoever first sends a foreigner here will of course naturally give instruction to these Christians.

This has been written hurriedly and in the midst of the confusion of the talk of a lot of Koreans but I think my point is plain.

With kindest regards -

Yours Sincerely,

Samuel A. Moffett

Seoul, Korea

March 27, 1891

Horace Grant Underwood

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I have been meaning to write to you for some time past. You will see that we are back in Seoul. We set apart the land in Fusan but were hindered in purchasing by the government and we have referred the matter to the American Minister here and he says that he will see that it is made all right. There are some restrictions about the purchase of property down there and when these are removed all will be well. We were expecting to receive the Foreign Office order for the sale of the property in time to send down by this mail but there has been some little further delay. The place that we had selected will cost at least three hundred dollars. While there I sprained my foot pretty badly and have been laid up with it but it is better now.

We had a very bad storm coming up and as we had combustibles on board that might have exploded with the jarring we felt that it was a merciful providence that brought us through. The difficulty about the purchase of property has been increased by some more troubles that the Romanists have got into and the French are assuming a very threatening attitude. The gunboats are now at Chemulpo [Inchon] and they are demanding satisfaction. Mr. Heard [American government Minister] thinks that the result will be freedom of religion for all Korea. Whether to be glad at the prospect or not I cannot decide. Of course, if it comes we will welcome it as an indication from God for more decided work but I almost dread it. I think the position as it now is, leaves a very wholesome restraint.

I have not yet sent you [a] report of the Examining Committee. We met and examined Mr. Gifford, Mr. Moffett and Miss Doty. The Committee were Mrs. Gifford, Dr. Scranton, our native pastor and myself. Mr. Moffett passed an exceptionally fine examination. He has made a careful study of the intricate grammar and laws of construction of Korean and as a consequence has made a very fine start and bids fair to be one of the first students of the language. Miss Doty has not had the best of teachers and this she will change. She has also had her hands pretty full and the Committee realized the need of two working together in any such work as hers so as to allow for more time for the study of the language. With reference to Mr. Gifford, the Committee were very much disappointed. He has made but poor progress. He has a tolerably fair vocabulary but has next to no knowledge as to the laws of construction. He speaks Korean with an English idiom. Dr. Scranton said that he did not think he would be ever able to speak the language but that he thought that in time he might become a fair writer of Korean. The Mission here has made a three years course and has made the suggestion to Mr. Gifford along the lines mentioned and it remains to be seen what he will do during the coming year

Of course these communications were understood to be entirely confidential and our instructions were to communicate direct with you. It is not easy to have to render this report but we all feel that a knowledge of the language is a "sine qua non" to a life of usefulness here and that if examinations are held they should not be mere farces and that you ought to know the result.

My wife's health is, I am sorry to say, no better. She has suffered from the most acute chronic rheumatism that I have ever heard of the whole winter in her whole body. Not a muscle has been free. This constant and severe pain has of course had its result upon her body and mind. She has run down very much and is a mere skeleton. Her nerves also have been severely affected and constant melancholia has resulted. All the doctors say that she must go home but she says "no" and we think to try and see what the

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summer will do. If during the next two months she picks up and gets stronger as we hope she will, we will try and spend the summer in some cool spot and if when winter comes on she is in real good health we shall risk another winter. If at the end of two months she is no better we shall pack up and come straight home and hope that the Board will sanction the move. If also we stay till winter and it seems best not to try another winter we shall start home through Europe and thus avoid one whole winter entirely. We have not asked the Mission here to recommend our return yet as we sincerely hope and pray that we may be permitted to stay. We both feel that there is so much to be done that we have no time to spend going home and that we ought to stay here until the Lord plainly calls us to go home.

But I must close. My wife sends her kindest regards,

Yours Sincerely,

H.G. Underwood

Seoul, Korea

May 21, 1891

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I am again in Seoul after a most enjoyable and profitable three-months trip to the North and desire to give you a brief account of the journey. I wrote you from Eui Ju urging its importance and requesting the permission to buy a house there. The Mission has approved the request and I sincerely trust we may be able to get a foothold there, for to my mind our work there is just now more imperatively demanding direction than the work in Seoul. We have more baptized members there than in Seoul. There are more applicants for baptism and more sincere inquirers and among them all there is but one man who receives any financial aid from the Mission. We took this man - the evangelist - with us on our trip and just now I am giving him a series of Bible Readings for the instruction of the applicants there when he returns.

With the purpose of investigating the work done by Mr. Ross and his converts in the North of Korea & in the Korean valleys across the boundary in China we visited Moukden and from there went directly East to Korea, journeying through one of the Korean valleys and the North of Korea. Our visit in Moukden was one of the most profitable parts of the trip and our talks with Mr. Ross give us an insight into his Korean work. With the information there obtained we started for the Korean valleys and I think have satisfactorily settled the fact that the work can be better done from China than from Korea as those valleys are almost unapproachable from our side. We spent two weeks among the mountains of China & North Korea, finding the region sparsely settled, poor, and so nearly destitute of food that we have given it the name of Starvation Camp as we lived on boiled oats & millet most of that time. Finding it impossible as well as undesirable to go clear across the North we came down through the middle of Korea to the East reaching Ham Heung, the capital of the province, and on the way from there stopping at Gensan [Wonsan], the Eastern treaty port. In this region we found what we consider the most beautiful & most wealthy and apparently the most prosperous region of Korea and we feel the importance of opening work there as soon as the work already begun has proper oversight, and the places more imperatively demanding men are supplied.

From an evangelistic point of view I think the journey a most successful one. We were able to preach in cities, towns and villages to hundreds of people who had never heard the gospel. We found them ready to listen and time and again we found men eager to know more and with the Chinese Bible and our evangelists the pure gospel was taught to a great many. The seed was sown. I doubt not there will be fruit. We had not an unpleasant experience on the whole trip - the people and officials being very courteous although their curiosity was so great that we could hardly get a half hour alone.

The North is open for successful work, the people in no way being opposed to the teaching of Christianity and in that region the Roman Catholics have as yet little hold. As yet I know little of the South but have the impression that the prejudice against foreigners is much greater and the work quite difficult, although I have a number of visitors from the South who are ready to listen.

The trip was a success in language study and I also came back in splendid health which I hope I shall not destroy by over work, although there are so many opportunities to work that the temptation is great. Am deeply sorry to find that Mr. and Mrs. Underwood left in such poor health. His absence necessarily stops some departments of our work but leaves our hands more than full. I know the difficulty you labor under in getting suitable

men for the field but I pray the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into this ripe corner of his vineyard. Mr. Gifford is not strong nor well and has nearly broken down. Miss Doty has too much work for one person as it confines her so closely that she is becoming mentally distressed which is more wearing than sickness. My country trip relieved me from the monotony and strain of attention to innumerable details of mission affairs so that I do not share in any of the depression here. The Mission are all agreed as to the importance of having another lady to share Miss Doty's work, giving each of them leisure for work among women outside, thus varying their work. The work for women is very promising with Mrs. Gifford & Mrs. Heron coming more and more into closer contact with them in their homes.

Now just a word with reference to my letters to you. I should greatly prefer to feel free to write you pretty fully as to the way things appear to me and of what we are doing, knowing that you will not publish them. I was a little surprised to find an extract of my letter in *The Church at Home and Abroad*, not that there was anything in it which I objected to having published but it was a hurried letter of notes not written in a style for publication.

I will send by next mail a short description of our trip for *The Church at Home and Abroad* if the publication of it meets your approval. We are more than pleased at having Dr. & Mrs. Vinton with us and look for successful medical work.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

P.S. Please let me know if you received the letter which contained "Suggestions for Outfit for Korea". I understand that Dr. & Mrs. Vinton had but very meager suggestions and I think the one I sent was quite full.

AN EVANGELISTIC TRAMP THROUGH NORTH KOREA - I

The close of the Korean New Year festivities found Mr. Gale and myself gathering together a few things preparatory to a tramp through the north of Korea. Loading our goods on two pack ponies and equipping ourselves with a pair of strong shoes and a good oak cane, we left Seoul by the west gate on February 25, and began our march on the Peking road. We took with us Mr. Saw, our Seoul evangelist, Kum Doli, my house-boy, and Mr. Gale's little fox-terrier dubbed "Nip." According to the Oriental custom of bidding farewell to journeying friends, we were accompanied some distance outside the city wall by Messrs. Gifford and Fenwick, a number of Korean friends, the boys from our school, and servants connected with the mission. One by one these returned, a few accompanying us to a high pass about a mile from the city. At the top of this pass, Mr. Youn, of our boys' school, suggested that we have prayer before separating, and in very feeling words commended us to God and asked a blessing upon our journey. Touched by this prayer, coming spontaneously from one who has been a Christian but a short time, we took our final farewell and were soon trudging along in order to reach the first town, thirteen miles off before night. After a hearty supper and prayers, we rolled ourselves up in our blankets on the warm floor and were soon asleep. We began the next morning's tramp with light hearts, feeling that we had left behind us all the petty annoyances and vexations incident to the necessary routine of mission finances, buildings, schools, etc., and that before us were three months of language study, evangelistic work and direct contact with the people. The evangelist who accompanied us is a treasure – one of the most dignified and impressive of Koreans, a true, courageous Christian commanding the greatest respect and esteem from us as we saw his skill in preaching to his own people and his courage in preaching and selling books, although he was thus subjecting himself to insult, and, for aught he knew, to severe persecution also.

Having traveled fifty miles, we reached Syong To, the capital of the former dynasty, and one of the five largest cities in the kingdom. Before reaching the city a heavy rain-storm had driven us for shelter into a small roadside inn, presided over by two very old, white-headed men, who for the first time heard the news of eternal life and salvation from sin. Their readiness to admit that they were sinners connects itself in my mind with one of the New Year customs which evidences the consciousness of sin in this people. As we were traveling we had observed along the roadside a number of straw images, and upon inquiry learned that on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the first month these images are made as representatives of individuals. In the body, hands and feet are placed pieces of money, while inside is placed a paper on which is written the name of the person, all the sins of the past year and all the evils which he wishes to escape the coming year. At nightfall, passing beggars cry out, "*Chay yong Chusio*" ("Please give us the straw image"), and in response these images are passed out through the door. The money being extracted, the image is thrown into the field along the roadside, and with it are carried away the man's sins and all the evils which might otherwise befall him. I raise the question as to whether this may not be a remnant of Old Testament knowledge, being related to the two great Jewish festivals, the Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the first month, and the Day of Atonement when the scape-goat carried away the sins.

Having spent three days, including Sunday, in Syong To, part of one day spent along the road outside the city wall, selling books and talking to passers-by, we started for Ping An [Pyeng Yang], another large city, four hundred li distant [a li is about 1/3 of a mile]. The roads were rough and frozen in the morning and muddy at noon, but we made twenty or thirty miles a day, stopping at towns and villages all the way, and staying a longer or shorter time according to the

opportunities presented to interest people in our message.

The numerous beautiful pheasants made us regret the absence of a shotgun - a regret intensified as we moved north and saw immense flocks of wild geese and ducks, which would have gone far toward supplementing the meager fare of the village inns. We reached Ping An [Pyeng Yang] and stayed there a week, it being one of Korea's largest cities, the capital of the province, and a place which we hope to occupy as soon as possible. We had service on Sunday, and sowed the seed here and there, meeting many from neighboring towns. After the Sunday service, our evangelist proposed to the two professing Christians that they go with him to sell books on the street. Instantly came the quick reply, "*An twoio*" ("It won't do"), and when they failed to arouse the necessary courage, Mr. Saw went alone to one of the watch-towers on the city wall, and there quietly disposed of a few books and met several interested persons. Work here is in its first stage, and while there are a number quietly searching the truth, there is great reluctance to – in any public way – identify oneself with the foreigner who brings the truth. Our one professing Christian there is quietly at work and has brought to see us a number who are studying, some of whom profess to believe.

Leaving Ping An, we found the weather considerably colder, and for several weeks had frequent snow-storms. In the city of Anju, one of the prettiest cities of Korea, with its brilliant white wall and pine-clad hillside, we found an inquirer who reported a class of six under his instruction. So great were the crowds of curious sightseers from whom there was no escape, an inner room being unobtainable, that we had no privacy, and while these men wish instruction, they are not yet willing to declare themselves before their fellow-citizens. One of the greatest trials of travel in Korea is the almost absolute impossibility of attending to any business privately. If not surrounded by a crowd, the inns being public houses, you may be sure there is a listening ear at the door, or a peering eye at some hole in the paper window, and their curiosity to know not only a foreigner's but each other's business, is unlimited. With a promise to stop another time in hope of obtaining a private room, we passed on and spent the following Sunday in a small town. Here we spent the day talking to rooms full of men, while a number of women gathered in an adjoining room listened and peeped through cracks in the wall. Great interest was manifested, and they said it was the first time they had heard of Christ. There is far less suspicion and a greater readiness to listen on the part of the people of the smaller towns and villages, the people of the larger cities seeming to be in great fear of persecution or social ostracism.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March we reached Eui-ju, the large border city, and saw looming up before us the great high mountains of Manchuria. Here we settled down for a rest from our tramp of 350 miles, to engage in the work which we had especially come to do. Under our resident evangelist a small band of Christians had been gathered together, and during the twelve days spent here we had profitable communion with them, giving scriptural instruction both day and night to them and to numerous inquirers from other towns. Holding service on two Sundays at the latter, I administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to ten Koreans. Our stay here had revealed a most promising state of things, there being a few who gave every evidence of being sincere believers, and a great many who were eager to hear and know the truth. I enrolled the names of fifteen applicants for baptism, and gave them a suggested course of Bible study preparatory to another visit. Gratified with the prospect of the work in Eui-ju, and hoping that the expressed wish of many that a missionary should come and live among them may soon be realized, we prepared for the second stage of our journey. This was to carry us to the "Korean valleys" of China, to the Koreans among whom Dr. Ross and other Presbyterian missionaries of Moukden had for some years been working.

Our plan was to visit Moukden, and after gaining all the information we could from Dr. Ross, go directly east through the Korean valleys, across the north of Korea, and thence to Gensan [Wonsan], the eastern port, a region not yet visited, and concerning which the mission wanted information.

### AN EVANGELISTIC TRAMP THROUGH NORTH KOREA - II

Just before starting across the Yalu River into China, my curiosity was aroused by some long cotton padded rolls of muslin which were being placed on our loads. Upon inquiry I was told they were to be placed in the Chinese carts to prevent us from breaking our heads when the jolting over the rough roads brought them into contact with the sides of the cart. From this we anticipated a rather rough ride, and it is well we did, for such rough rocky roads I never saw elsewhere than between Eui-ju and Moukden, and when two of us were wedged into a small, springless cart, we were jolted and shaken up and tossed about in a manner beyond my powers of description. As we landed on Chinese territory, the large solid brick custom-house compelled us to make the first of many unfavorable comparisons. This time it was to the disparagement of Korea's small, low, mud custom-house on the opposite bank, and this comparison holds good in respect to all the buildings public or private. A walk of three miles brought us to the first town, where our carts were awaiting us. Wedging our three Koreans into one cart, Mr. Gale and I with "Nip" occupied the other cramped quarters, and we were off for Moukden. The Chinese official viewed our passports, and politely sent a file of six soldiers and a mounted captain to accompany us. Accepting this mark of respect and attention until night, we made the acquaintance of the captain, who proved to be a Mohammedan, and after thanking him, relieved them from further service. Our next day's experience was a new one, and will suffice to give you an idea of the trip as far as Moukden. After a breakfast of five poached eggs apiece, we were off by moonlight at five o'clock, and by noon had traveled twenty miles, reaching a large town full of business activity. The roads were full of carts and travelers, and the streets of the city alive with men. The stores were large, well built and well stocked, and the quick business movement of the people marked another contrast to the leisurely strolling Korean. We reached this place just in time to see a large parade of cavalry on their way to a competitive examination, but the sight of soldiers soon became an every-day affair, as the country seems to be pretty full of them. In our inn the dark clothes and quiet, respectful crowd of spectators vividly contrasted with the white-robed, noisy, curious, questioning crowd which had met us at every inn in Korea. It was also a great relief to be free from the necessity of talking, listening to and answering every sort of question, and we gladly left that to our evangelist, who spoke Chinese and acted as our interpreter. We got a fairly good dinner of rice, fish, eggs, soup, pork and cabbage, and were not surprised to find it disagreeably dirty, since at the first inn we had been told by one of the very dirtiest of Korean boys that the food was so dirty even he could not eat it. Certainly, after living twenty days on Chinese food (except while in Moukden), we were glad to get back to the cleaner, if less abundant, fare of Korea.

The afternoon took us over a rough mountain road, and just as it was getting dark and cold our cart got stuck in the mud, delaying us long enough to find the inns in the next village closed for the night. We pressed on, finding ourselves shut out at several successive villages, and began to think we should spend the night traveling up and down these rough mountains in such darkness that, although we had a Chinese lantern, we could not see our front mules. By ten o'clock, however, we had the good fortune to get into an inn, and at once wrapped ourselves up on the *kang* floor, too tired to eat. Here, too, we were finding cold weather, ice and snow being abundant, and the Manchurian winds of April gave us no special desire to experience those of mid-winter. We



had seen many Chinese women along the road, and marked that their dress, sometimes quite pretty, is much more easy, warm and modest than that of Korean or Japanese women.

We reached Moukden, five hundred li from Eui-ju, in six days, and were most hospitably entertained by the missionaries of the Scotch United Presbyterian and Irish Presbyterian Churches. We stayed at the home of Dr. [Thomas M.] Young, who has charge of a large and most successful hospital, supplied with everything to make it a help in the work of the mission. It was a great pleasure to meet the group of young Scotchmen associated with Dr. Ross in his successful work, and the four days spent with them in social intercourse, discussing their plans of work, enjoying a few games of tennis and evenings of song, constitute one of the most profitable features of our journey. Their beautiful, large church built in Chinese style and filled every Sunday with an audience of from three to five hundred native Christians, was both a surprise and an inspiration to us.

After several full talks with Dr. Ross about his work in the "Korean Valleys", we were off, eager to get into Korea again. Traveling a day over the large, sandy plain in the center of which Moukden is situated, we entered the mountains, and for eight days wound in and around these Manchurian "Rockies", following the rivers so closely that we sometimes forded the same river twenty times a day. The winds were hot or cold, the ground was covered with grass or with ice and snow, and the roads were frozen or muddy, as we ascended and descended these peaks. The rivers were swollen, and we had a rough ride, with narrow escapes from upsetting, both on land and in water, our Koreans being upset twice, and one of the mules being carried off his feet by the current. Thus traveling, we were regaled with a bill of fare of rice, beans, corn, millet and broom-corn seed porridge, according as the inns were able to provide. However, we fared better in another respect, and feasted our sense of the beautiful on the grand mountain scenery and the valleys threaded with the clearest of sparkling streams. We shall not forget some of those scenes, viewed through sunshine, rain and snow-storm.

Our cart drivers also added to our entertainment early one morning by stopping to engage in a fight with two pedestrians. The big clubs which they carry were used so freely that we began to think our journey would be interrupted by the loss of a driver or two, but our Koreans came to the rescue and ended the fracas.

In Tong Wha Syen, the largest place on the way, we remained a day, and here began to meet some of the Koreans who had come over in order to have more freedom to reap the results of their industry than they have in their own misgoverned land. We heard of numbers of them off in mountain nooks, and also heard of Dr. Ross' colporteur who has distributed Gospels amongst them. Here, too, our Korean evangelist became a *foreign* missionary, and as we saw him preaching to a large crowd of Chinese, gathered about him in the inn, we thought of the prediction which many have made, viz: that Korea will become a great factor in the evangelization of China. Approaching the border land our road lay through a dense, tangled forest of pines, spruces and other soft woods, and at the end of fifteen miles we were brought to a halt, at the foot of a high mountain, beyond which there was only a foot-path. Taking leave of our carters, who were jolly fellows, we prepared for the last ten miles to the Yalu. Unable to procure but two coolies, there was nothing to do but to pile our loads on our own backs and trudge off over mountains and through the valleys with regular glaciers six and eight feet thick under foot and a heavy snow-storm overhead. Nightfall brought us to a Korean hut, and right glad we were to get out of the filth and smoke of Chinese inns, and to once more get a clean meal. The next morning we entered the immense pine lumber camp at the junction of our glacial stream with the Yalu. The thousands of

fine, large logs three and four feet in diameter were a sight to remember, as were also the hard lumbermen, who laughed at our passport, saying they were beyond the region of law when they refused to row us across the river. However, good humor won the day, and we were safely landed on Korean soil ready for our march across the North.

After five days spent in the mountains of Korea, preaching as we went, we changed the course of our trip. Finding not only that the roads across the North were impassable, but also that the region is sparsely settled and that the Korean settlers in China are accessible only by foot journey to and from the mountain nooks, we struck off south, through the center of Korea, for Ham Heung, the capital of the province.

The tramp through this region is an experience worth having, after you are safely through it. The region is rich in timber, gold and iron, but, under misgovernment the people have no incentive to develop it and are extremely poor. We rightly named this region "Starvation Camp", since for many days we got practically nothing to eat but boiled millet or oats, and soup made of greens, with an occasional egg or small fish. This was the region of difficulties and for transporting our loads we made use of every conceivable method, using men, horses, cows, sleds and carts. However, when we did emerge from this cold and barren region, it was by crossing a very high mountain, on the other side of which we found ourselves in a region of plenty, sunshine and spring flowers. We had entered the large, fertile country in which the province capital is situated, and we were surprised to find it the most beautiful region of Korea. The city of Ham Heung is a large, well-built city, ten miles from the sea and ninety miles from Gensan [Wonsan], the eastern treaty port. Surrounded by a large stretch of grain and rice fields, extending along the sea coast some distance south of Gensan, with gold fields to the north, it is the capital of a rich and prosperous province. A day's rest and refreshment here were thoroughly enjoyed, and satisfied with our tramp of seven or eight hundred miles, we engaged horses for the return to Seoul. Spending Sunday in Gensan, we viewed the Japanese settlement and the rapidly growing Korean town. With an earnest wish that some mission will soon occupy this promising field, and not leave it to the Roman Catholics, we mounted our horses, eager to see friends in Seoul and letters from home. The fertile region around Gensan is separated from that around Seoul by a wide stretch of barren, mountainous country. We traversed this rather hurriedly, reaching Seoul on Saturday, May 16, glad to get back to what is now our home, and satisfied that our long tramp had been a most profitable one and believing that the word preached will prove not to have been in vain.

(from original letter published in the *Herald and Presbyter*, – Vol. LI., No. 51, Cincinnati, OH (a Presbyterian family newspaper published every Wednesday), January 13, 1892 (Part 1); and January 20, 1892 (Part 2), editions. Microfilm copies in the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers, Princeton Theological Seminary library archives — thanks to the courtesy of Dr. Sung-Deuk Oak, Visiting Assistant Professor of Korean Christianity, Center for Korean Studies, UCLA, 2004, 2005)

Seoul, Korea

July 2, 1891 (Rec'd Jul. 28)

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Your letter of May 6th was received with pleasure and I am glad you are satisfied with the changes in the orphanage which now gives promise of doing real good work. The two teachers give every evidence of being earnest Christians and with my gradual increase in knowledge of language and customs I am more and more able to understand its workings and plan intelligently for it. Have been waiting quite anxiously for word concerning appropriations for it and we are all disappointed in not getting the Board letters directed to Mr. Underwood which were forwarded to him at Chicago by Mrs. Bunker.

We feel quite sure that in them was information concerning Mr. Gale and we are placed in a most unsatisfactory position. Mr. Gale's Committee write to him urging him to maintain his connection with them. In justice to them he cannot continue drawing funds from them if he is not to continue as their missionary. He feels that he must let them know definitely what his movements will be and as abundant time has been allowed to hear from our Board he cannot keep his Committee waiting. As your answer was probably in the letter to Mr. Underwood the Mission at the meeting June 30th authorized me to cable you if the next mail brings no word about Gale. This will explain the reasons for the cablegram if it is sent.

In regard to Dr. Allen - you have certainly been alarmed by false rumors concerning his relations to us. My personal relations with him are as cordial and pleasant as any one could ask and he is ever ready to do all he can to help us in our work and is indeed a great help to us in his present position. His relations with Mrs. Heron while naturally not those of an intimate friend are perfectly pleasant and free from all "gossip" on this side of the ocean.

Dr. Allen certainly has no grievance against the mission and our new missionaries can see no "ripple of the old quarrels". I think I have never written an unkind thing of Dr. Allen personally - but I did oppose his occupying the two positions of Missionary and Diplomatic Politician. He is now in the line of work in which it seems to me he can be most useful and I write this only in order to remove the mis-apprehension under which I believe you have written several letters.

Our work continues to open up on all sides bringing with it more opposition on the part of the friends of the Christians. One of those who recently professed faith in Christ has been beaten by his relatives - but his adherence to the faith gives promise of good things.

Grateful to God for the advance in the contributions of the church, we earnestly pray that this will enable you to send recruits to Korea.

The rumor that Dr. Gillespie is to visit the mission fields is welcome news.

Very Sincerely Yours,

S.A. Moffett

Seoul, Korea

September 17, 1891 (Rec'd Oct. 20)

Samuel A. Moffett

Rev. F.F. Ellinwood, D.D.  
53 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

In a few days I shall be off for another trip to the North as far as Eui Ju, it being my desire to spend a couple of months in the country every spring and fall until I am able to speak the language with some fluency. By that time or before then I hope the Mission will see its way clear to send me to Fusan or to an interior station South where together with Mr. Baird I may have oversight of country work which will take me on a trip every spring and fall, not primarily for the language, but for direct evangelistic work and instruction of Christians.

Before I get off I wish to write you concerning the present situation of our affairs and plans with comments showing how they appear to me.

First - Concerning the cablegram about Mr. Gale's appointment - I explained the reason for sending it in a former letter. Dr. Gillespie's reply shows that one of your letters concerning Mr. Gale was lost and I cannot avoid thinking that a letter to Mr. Gale must have been lost for he has never received any communication from the Board concerning his application. When I cabled you I took it for granted that you were registered and so merely cabled "Ellinwood, New York". I received a reply from the Bureau saying "Your Ellinwood undelivered - address removed from 36 West 596 St. Whereabouts unknown." And so I was compelled to cable again to the Bureau giving your 53 Fifth Ave. Address.

I trust we shall not soon again have an emergency demanding the expense incident to cabling - but if we should, will be glad to know your cable address.

Second - The request of the Mission for \$600 to fit up the so-called Lower School Building as a residence for Mr. Gale. This building in its location is by far the best adapted for direct contact with the people, and with the Korean buildings belonging to it can be made a center for an immense amount of work of various kinds. It is situated on an elevation - and has large grounds making it probably as healthful as a place can be inside the city walls. I had thought it well adapted for use as a hospital and had hoped to see it so used but Dr. Vinton declares the place and buildings absolutely out of the question for that purpose. It has lain idle for 4 years and if kept for a school (its original purpose) will probably remain idle for 10 years more. Our present Boys' School can accommodate 50 boys and will answer all purposes for a long time. The experience of the M.E. school which when I came had 80 pupils and now has 10 shows that there is no demand for an English teaching school which does not feed & clothe the pupils. As for Mr. Gale's plans - I wrote you from Eui Ju that he and I had discussed the plan of having him open and occupy that point by means of protracted stays there - but on a Mission field you can never tell what turn affairs will take and Mr. Gale's move in the matrimonial line necessitates a change in the Eui Ju plan while it opens up a plan for work in Seoul which promises very happy results. Mr. Gale has written you confidentially of his expected marriage to Mrs. Heron and we are all unanimous in supporting their request for the occupation of this Lower School Building. This will not leave Mrs. Heron's house vacant even tho Dr. Vinton's plan (mentioned further on) is not carried out, for the missionaries soon to arrive will need to be provided for and if Mr. Underwood returns in the Spring as Mrs. U. writes they expect to, Dr. Vinton will have to be provided for.

I feel that Mr. Gale is well adapted to make good use of the place. And I see no disadvantages connected with this disposition of the property. Mrs. Heron's house as you know is just back of and close to the Underwood house and while I have no fear of any reversion to the old misunderstandings of the past, the possibility of any such will be still further obviated by the carrying out of this plan, and as Mr. Underwood's and Mr. Gale's lines of work and methods of work are somewhat different, their separation will tend rather than otherwise to efficiency and freedom along their own lines and ideas. Mr. Gale will there have much freer access to the people because Koreans who come here to the foreign settlement are immediately placed under suspicion by their friends and relatives. We greatly need another point for work in the city and personally I wish we could scatter out and occupy several points.

It may be that my view of this is somewhat colored by the fact that Mr. Gale's establishment in Seoul will enable me the more quickly to ask the Mission to send me to Fusan, but aside from that the plan seems an excellent one.

Third - Medical Work. The government hospital is still under our charge and I believe Dr. Vinton is now agreed that it is best to retain it even tho its contribution to our work is only an indirect one giving us prestige among the people and certain considerations from the officials. However, Dr. V. Is satisfied that its work will be mainly that of a dispensary and he has his plans for building a Mission hospital - which I believe he has communicated to you. At the last meeting of the Mission he proposed his plans desiring that we request an appropriation to build a house on a hill about 2 miles outside the South Gate near the main road leading to the 3 southern provinces. Not willing that the Doctor should have his hands so full to the neglect of the language the first year and feeling that a full year on the field may modify his plans the Mission postponed consideration of the plan until Spring - stating however its approval of the main features of his proposal provided certain things take place and the distribution of our forces will warrant it.

Among other things the question arises whether the Board will give us two physicians for Seoul it being in our view necessary to have two since we retain control of the government hospital. With two physicians each could have relief at times - could attend the government hospital and Royal practice, establish a Mission hospital, a house dispensary, and each be free at times for itinerating trips without which they will find it difficult to get the language.

The plan suggested to my mind has been to ask you to leave Dr. & Mrs. Brown in Seoul, giving them charge of the government hospital and Royal practice while Dr. Vinton goes outside the city and carries out his plan of building an efficient hospital (with funds collected outside of the Board). This came to me when Dr. Vinton wished to give up the government hospital (as he wrote you) but since his views on that have changed he might now be unwilling to put it in Dr. Brown's hands. However, the near future will probably tell but I do not see how we are to have the government hospital and another hospital in which we can do direct Evangelistic work, unless we have two physicians here. Fusan can wait a short while for a physician since Dr. Hardie of Canada is there and will work in connection with Mr. Baird.

This summer has been a pretty hard one for most of those who stayed in Seoul but thanks to our trip to the mountains we escaped sickness and have come back well and vigorous ready for fall work. Mr. Gifford is off for a short trip south. Mr. Baird has gone to Fusan to build; and Mr. Gale is at work in the Lower-School building.

9/17/91 -- p. 2 S.A.M.

The Boys' School has opened for the fall & winter term and I am seeking for students who will provide part of their own support. Will have a few such this year and hope to gradually increase the number and also the amount of support furnished by them. Am satisfied that good work is being done in the teaching department and hope a foundation is being laid upon which we may build the most efficient school in Korea.

The Sunday morning church service is growing in interest and the attendance is slowly increasing - the introduction of singing being a great help.

I expect to get off to the North in a few days and unless prevented in some way will purchase a house in Eui Ju, setting aside part of it for occupation by a missionary during his stays there, and will fix up part of it as a place of worship and center of work for the Christians there. I hope the time is not far off when we shall see a church regularly organized there.

I expect to be gone about two months, returning in time to take part in the work of the Winter Theological Class which is one of the best features of our work.

Trusting that this will give you a partial view of some of our Mission affairs as they appear to one of us - And with kindest regards.

Very Sincerely Yours

Samuel A. Moffett

~~~~~  
S.S. MOFFETT & SON  
DRY GOODS AND CARPETS,  
112 EAST MAIN STREET.  
~~~~~

*Madison, Ind. Sept. 30 1891*

Dear Tom,

Enclosed find check for \$25<sup>00</sup> which acknowledge on receipt of same.

What can you do for Sam in regard to the following books which he has written for me to pack with his box, which I am now getting up. The Rail Road has at last paid up for the lost box. He says he wants college textbooks as follows: Geology, Zoology, Physiology, "Whitney on Language", Chemistry, a very small manual of Qualitative Analysis, Botany (Grey's & Coulters), a small globe, Westcott & Hart's Parallel Greek & English New Testament.

Get all the above and forward to me to pack if you find you can get them to advantage.

Yours,

*Will*

**Evangelistic Tour in the North of Korea**  
(A 3-month walking tour taken in the Spring of 1891)

Samuel Austin Moffett

Last February, in company with Mr. Gale, of the Toronto University Y.M.C.A., I started for the north of Korea. Our purpose was to preach the gospel, study the language, country and people, and to look after the work which had already been done in Eui-ju and the Korean valleys [sometimes referred to as Kando and North Kando – 간도 & 북간도], just across the Chinese border. In order that we might be free to stop anywhere and stay any length of time without the expense of keeping several horses and their grooms, we went on foot, putting our blankets, clothes and a lot of Chinese gospels on two pack ponies, and taking with us our native evangelist, Mr. Saw, through whom we expected to do most of our preaching. After the first two days we found the roads rough and muddy, but we were able to make 20 or 30 miles a day without much fatigue. Stopping whenever we pleased at towns and villages and spending several days, including Sundays, at the two large cities of Syong To and Ping An, we reached at last Eui-ju, the northern port, 350 miles from the capital. Along the way in many an inn we had talked with interested groups of men, many of whom were eager to purchase the Chinese gospels and En Mun catechism. Those most deeply interested asked where we lived and promised to hunt us up when they went to Seoul. In Eui-ju, on the border of China, where an evangelist has been at work for some time, we were most pleasantly surprised to find a field ripe for the harvest and the people anxious to have a missionary come and live among them. We stayed there twelve days, giving daily instruction to those who had already heard the gospel, and making known to many for the first time the news of salvation from sin. While we in our little room were giving Bible readings daily, our evangelists were in an outside room talking to others and we could hear them preaching every night, sometimes until 1 or 2 o'clock, to those who had come from the surrounding villages. We were in Eui-ju two Sundays and held two well attended services, at the latter of which I administered the Lord's Supper to ten Koreans who had previously received baptism. I also received applications for baptism from five men in Eui-ju and from a class of ten in Kon Syeng. These latter have been receiving instruction from an old man who had attended our winter theological class in Seoul.

We were treated with great courtesy by the officials and to the chief magistrate we sent a nicely bound copy of the Chinese New Testament, which he produced and talked of when we dined with him a few days later. Eui-ju with the surrounding cities and towns is a most promising field, greatly needing the presence of a missionary to cultivate it. From this point we crossed into China and took carts for Moukden, jolting for several days over as rough and stony a road as one can find anywhere. We do not envy the Manchuria missionaries their springless carts and rough roads. A tramp in the Korean mud is preferable to a cart ride over the rocks and stones of the roads of Manchuria.

When we reached Moukden we were most cordially welcomed by Rev. John Ross and a group of young Scotch missionaries, who made our four days' stay with them one of the most enjoyable and profitable experiences of the journey, and we came back to Korea eager to see the time when our own work there will be as far advanced as that in Manchuria. Having learned all we could from Mr. Ross concerning his efforts in the Korean valleys, we traveled directly east from Moukden until we reached the mountainous region of the extreme north of Korea, having come through one of those valleys partially settled by Koreans. Finding that these valleys are more easy of access from the Chinese side and that this region of Korea is more sparsely settled than we had been led to believe, we then deviated from our projected route. We had intended to go along the northern frontier to the eastern coast, but, changing our plan, we came down instead



until we reached Ham Heung, the capital of the North-east province. In this region we found food so scarce that we congratulated ourselves that we had Scotch blood in our veins and could relish a meal consisting of nothing but boiled oats and greens. When we reached Ham Heung we had come from the region of snow and ice into that of flowers and balmy spring breezes, and from the land of scarcity into one of the most fertile regions of Korea. Ham Heung is in appearance the most attractive city which we have seen in all Korea, situated at the foot of a mountain looking off upon a large plain covered with fields of rice and grain and reaching to the sea. It is distant only 90 miles from the eastern treaty port of Gensan [Wonsan], the road to which runs through a region rich in gold and fertile fields. Gensan is an important and most inviting field for missionary effort, but as yet no work has been done there. The Roman Catholics are ahead of us in occupying the important points and have just sent a priest to this port. We are hoping that the Board will soon be able to send us men enough to occupy these points, which would give us a hold upon all Korea.

From Ham Heung we took horses to Seoul, arriving here in the middle of May, having traveled 700 miles on foot, 400 in a cart and 300 on horses. In the three months' time we have not only improved considerably in our knowledge of the language, but have also sowed the gospel seed among thousands. We doubt not that some of this seed will spring up and bring forth fruit.

We met no ill-treatment and, aside from a natural suspicion of foreigners, found nothing to oppose the teaching of the gospel.

[Samuel A. Moffett]

(S.A. Moffett's report of a trip through North Korea and into Manchuria from February 25 through mid-May by himself and James S. Gale, published in the October issue of *The Church at Home and Abroad*, Vol, 10, pp. 329-331)

[Dear Friends:]

Feeling the necessity of having some one look after the very promising work in the North, I made arrangements to leave Seoul the last of September.

Taking with me one of our country evangelists we reached Ping An in about ten days, selling books on the way and preaching wherever we stopped for meals. At one village we found an old man of over sixty who had gotten hold of one of Mr. Underwood's tracts, and who met us in the road eagerly desiring to know more. We stopped and had a good talk with him.

In Ping An work is being quietly done by our one member there, but there is great reluctance to identifying themselves with a foreigner. While here I was delighted to meet a man who brought good news from a point in the extreme North among the mountains. Several years ago he met Mr. Underwood here, and obtained books from him. He was again here on a visit to his parents and came to me applying for baptism for himself and six others whom he is teaching in far off Sam Syon. Giving him a course of study for the instruction of the class and after several talks and prayers with him, I promised him I would do all I could to have some one sent to his province to occupy the Eastern treaty port, Gensan [Wonsan], from which his home would be most easily reached. On the return trip we spent three days here, giving instruction to a few and enrolling four applicants for baptism, the first evidence that the wedge which has entered here is being driven in. In An Ju for the second time I was prevented from seeing a number of men reported to be studying the Scriptures. It was impossible to get a room free from the crowd of curious Koreans and the men have not yet the courage to acknowledge their interest in Christianity before their fellow citizens. Their leader will try to obtain a private room for me another time and I hope we shall soon see some here who will count it a privilege to suffer reproach for Christ's sake.

From Ping An to Eui Ju we found many eager listeners. It is to almost all of them a strange, new story and at first only excites curiosity and wonder but the harvest time will come along this road even as it is beginning to come in Eui Ju.

This time I stayed in Eui Ju nearly a month and was busy from morning till night meeting all classes of people who came from every motive imaginable. Some came to see the foreigner, some came out of curiosity to know why I had come, others to inquire if I would give them a living if they studied the Bible, others came out of curiosity to see the man who report said had bought a house there, others came out of a real desire to be instructed in the truth. It was my privilege to baptize three men who had applied last spring and who gave every evidence of a sincere desire to serve Christ, even if called upon to suffer persecution as some here have already had to do. As yet persecution takes the form of reproach from one's family or friends, submitting to be thought a "fool" or a man with no sense of shame or of respect for one's parents if he refuses to sacrifice to his ancestors. One of the Christians here who this spring refused to sacrifice at his father's tomb showed me a scar on his forehead which he received from his aunt who knocked him senseless with an ink stone.

Most encouraging reports were brought to me of the influence of the gospel among the women. Many of the Christians have been teaching their wives and seven women were reported as believers, while others have given up all sacrifice toward worship of evil spirits and devils. One night in the presence of their husbands I baptized two women, the first in this province to be

enrolled as believers. One was the wife of our evangelist who was one of the first Koreans baptized by Mr. McIntyre in Moukden fifteen years ago.

We returned from Eui Ju by another route in order to reach a mountain village in the magistracy of Kou Syeng, where there were a number who applied for baptism last spring. Here we were most pleasantly surprised to find that an old man and his son who attended the Theological class last winter, had been so faithfully spreading the gospel news that there were nearly 20 men in various villages desirous of being baptized. I met a number of them for examination and found they had been diligently searching the Scriptures and that the old man had faithfully instructed them. Desirous that they should be enlightened on a few subjects before being baptized, I advanced some to the second class, enrolled others for the first time and promised them a visit in the spring. Here also two women, relations of the old man, were reported as having given up the worship of evil spirits and as being believers in Christ Jesus. With glad hearts we pursued the return journey taking with us the old man's son for this winter's Theological class in Seoul. More than ever desirous that we may send some one to occupy this province where we have nearly half our enrolled membership and more applicants for baptism than in any other province, we returned to Seoul in time to thoroughly enjoy Thanksgiving Day.

[Samuel A. Moffett]

Seoul, Korea

November 6, 1891

H.G. Underwood  
Secretary pro tem

Minutes of Special Called Mission Meeting, Korea Mission, Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Special meeting at Mr. Gifford's at 11 a.m..opened with prayer by S.A. Moffett. The necessity of Mr. Underwood's taking a trip to Chefoo was brought up & on motion the Mission voted that sanction be granted to Mr. & Mrs. Underwood to go to Chefoo, & that Dr. Scranton's certificate be forwarded to the Board & that the Board be asked to bear the expenses. Carried. The Mission voted that the Board be asked to appropriate the sum of \$100<sup>00</sup> for drugs for Mrs. Underwood's dispensary. Carried. Moved that the Board be asked to allow the Mission to use what is needed of the "\$500<sup>00</sup> for the partial support of boys, for the Orphanage. Meeting adjourned.

H.G. Underwood  
Secretary pro tem

Seoul, Korea

Nov. 27, 1891

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

After writing most of the above I concluded to leave it in such shape that you could publish it in the Church at H&A [*The Church at Home and Abroad*] if you see fit and to add some other things for you or the Board only.

I find awaiting me a half dozen letters from Mr. Underwood giving me the unwelcome news of the probability of a long delay before his return and also the most welcome news of the promise of six men. In his letters however are a number of statements and plans concerning which I want to write you freely. I write now only my own views and do not know just what action the Mission might take on the several questions touched upon.

I am more than rejoiced at the good news of re-enforcements to come. We certainly need and can use all the six men promised and we want them now altho it may be two years before they are finally settled in the permanent place of work. A man will be far better fitted to go to a new station and will make fewer mistakes if he can have from 6 months to 2 years in Seoul, taking country trips to learn the language and people. We need two men for Seoul and especially so since Mr. Underwood's return may be long delayed. There is nothing to prevent our sending two men at least to open Gensan, the Eastern port, and I sincerely pray that another 12 months will find that place taken by us. I am disappointed that the Australian Presbyterian missionaries have not gone there but they wish to stay in Fusan where Mr. Davies died. I think the previous part of this letter indicates that we want two men at once preparing to permanently go into Ping An Province. My own conviction is that the city of Ping An not Eui Ju is the place to permanently occupy using the house just purchased in Eui Ju as a temporary residence until Ping An is opened as a treaty port which Dr. Allen tells me will come in time. As I came through there on my return I found the American Minister and a man-of-war [battleship] there surveying the place and negotiating for its opening. However having been twice deceived about the opening of Ping An I am unwilling to say it is to be opened - until I have definite word of it from the government. In your letter of Sept. 30 to Mr. Underwood about Dr. Gardner (he sent the letter to me with comments) you say "We hardly know how to dispose of the two (doctors) we have in Seoul." We do not see any difficulty at all. We think we need two here. Dr. Vinton is getting almost no time for language study, the hospital keeps him tied down here and we have no physician for country trips. Dr. Brown has reached Fusan and will be here in a few days. We do most earnestly hope he will get a good hold on the language and after one year in Seoul we can use him here - or in Gensan or in Ping An Province - or possibly in Fusan though the presence of the Australians there who expect a physician will probably render his presence there superfluous.

However, while I believe that 6 men and more can be most profitably disposed of as soon as they are ready for work, we can well afford to wait a long time rather than to get the wrong kind of men. We do want men of thorough integrity of character, consecrated tried men full of devotion as true missionaries. We are now a harmonious band - orthodox Presbyterians with a Calvinistic creed (We made a mistake in asking for Dr. McGill and all rejoice that he is not one of us), and I was glad to see your question in a letter to Mr. U - concerning those rejected by the M.E. Board.

Now about an educational man for Seoul. I do not think we want a secular man who comes out fitted only for that work but rather a minister who has had some experience in that line - or a natural liking for it and talent for organization. I do not remember just what the Mission asked for but think we did not say a layman. I fear if we get a layman in charge of educational work we shall soon have three departments of work to harmonize without being able to transfer the men from one kind of work to another if matters do not run smoothly or successfully.

We do need a man to develop our school work. I have just spent the morning in an examination at the Boys' School and believe it is doing good work and can be developed into a first class school but with the North country work to look after I cannot give it thorough oversight.

With Mr. Underwood's return indefinite, there is nothing for me to do but to accept the situation and for the present give up all idea of joining Mr. Baird in Fusan until our new men come and get a hold on the language and then, as we shall probably be fairly well manned, a more permanent allotment of work will naturally take place.

I hope to spend several months in Eui Ju and Ping An Province next spring & summer taking with me one of the new men who will go with the idea of taking hold of the work there.

If within a year we get the six men promised & a lady to assist Miss Doty I do not believe we shall need to ask for more men for perhaps four or five years, except probably two men for the South where the population is dense and there is abundant room for the Australians and a well-manned Mission of our own, each Mission having a large province with several million people. Trusting I have not written you too much - I am with kindest regards

Very Sincerely Yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

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One of the most remarkable works of grace known in foreign missions is that among the Koreans. Without having heard or seen a missionary, thousands have become believers in Christ. This is the fruit of the circulation of copies of the New Testament by a Scottish missionary in Manchuria.

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Am sorry to see the enclosed going the rounds of the press, giving false impressions of the condition of things in Korea. Such statements are not needed to do honor to the splendid work of the Scotch Missionaries in Moukden in behalf of Korea.

Seoul, Korea

Dec. 16, 1891 (Rec'd Jan. 26, 1892)

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

The mail arrived this afternoon and brought your letter of Nov. 7 to the Mission and also personal letters to Dr. Vinton and Mr. Gale which have been shown to me by them. We certainly have some most important questions to consider and decide and I trust we shall be guided by the Spirit of God in all our plans.

The mail leaves tomorrow morning and I take time tonight to write a few lines to you. My letter and the action of the Mission sent soon after my return from the country answer some of your questions. We, as a Mission, are certainly rejoiced at the offer of Mr. Underwood and have ever since been considering the question of new stations, disposal of our forces, etc., and I believe our Annual Meeting in January when the work of the past year and for the next year will be fully considered will show that we are ready for the new men and can place them at once where they will be able to make the most of their first year or two in language study. By all means I hope we may be able to plan so as to let the men get a fair start on this difficult language. What good will it do us to have a dozen ministers & doctors who five years from now will be a failure so far as reaching the Koreans in their own language is concerned?

You speak of "huddling them in the Capital" but it will not be huddling them here if they are sent off at once to the interior to arrange for permanent locations there although their home may be in Seoul the first year. Dr. Brown and I have already tentatively arranged to spend four months of next spring and summer in Eui Ju that I may look after work there and that he may get the language. If new men arrive by that time I hope one of them may accompany us while others may go with Mr. Gale or Gifford to prepare for opening Gensan [Wonsan]. I am glad Dr. Brown intends to get the language and I think I voice the opinion of the Mission in saying that we do not want him to be tied down to medical work until he has a good hold on the language. Dr. Vinton is giving too much time to the Government Hospital & Dispensary work to the neglect of the language and if our new men do likewise we shall be sadly crippled in a few years from lack of men who can teach & preach to the natives. If we can have the men and pretty generous appropriations for a few years for trips to [the] interior I believe in two years from now we shall be ready for a telling work along Evangelistic lines.

You say "It is a question which the mission ought to consider, who of your number can be available to accompany the young missionaries", and seem embarrassed by the change in Mr. Gale's plans. May I ask if there is any objection to sending me? I have from the first preferred to go to the Interior - am better able to go being a single man, and tho' lacking experience - have had more experience in the Interior than any one on the field except Mr. Gale.

It has been the Mission's plan to keep Mr. Gale in Seoul. When we first planned for him Mr. Underwood was here - When Mr. Underwood left unexpectedly and with doubt of his return for some time, we needed Mr. Gale here as the only one who spoke the language well and as he will probably give considerable time to translation (Mr. Underwood being absent), Seoul seemed the place for him. He has always declared his readiness to go anywhere the Mission said, but if Mr. U. does not return and Mr. Gale is sent to country, to whom will we commit the translation of the Scriptures? Shall we turn that over to the Methodists? We too hoped Mr. Gale would be available for pioneer work and had Mr. Underwood remained, doubtless that would have been the case.

If he is to stay in Seoul what better place to put him & what better use to make of the Lower School Property? For \$600 it can be made a satisfactory residence for him and Mrs. Heron while Dr. Vinton says it would take \$2000 to fit it for Medical use and then require another building for a residence. If fitted up now as a residence and Mr. Gale should be hereafter sent to a new station our suggestion to the Mission might then be carried out and that used for a residence for a doctor while the outbuildings are used for dispensary, etc. I think your letter to Mr. Gale both surprised and hurt him. He asked me if that meant "that you regret his appointment". I cannot think so for he gives promise of a life eminently useful whether in Seoul or the country.

12/16/91 - p.2 S.A.M.

We had a good day last Sunday receiving 10 into the Church with Baptism, and observed the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 23 Koreans partaking - the largest number I think at any one time.

Received today from Mr. Baird the deeds for the property in Fusan.

With kindest regards and most earnestly praying that we may be guided aright that all our plans and work may be over-ruled for the glory of God and the upbuilding of His Church here

Very Sincerely Yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

Dr. Brown & his wife have made most favorable impressions. He speaks very highly of Dr. & Mrs. Gardner whom I mentioned in my last letter. They were together 3 years in Mich. Univ.



Seoul, Korea

Dec. 28, 1891

Samuel A. Moffett

My Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Your recent letters to Mr. Gale, to the Mission and yours of Nov. 19th to me have taken us completely by surprise and have been the occasion of much pain and regret and have led to much earnest prayer. The Mission sends by this mail the only action which it feels that it can take and now as I write individually I do not know what to say - though I feel that the situation demands that I do what I can to help clear up the misunderstandings.

My relations with the Board and Secretaries have in these two years been the most pleasant and I have felt that between us existed perfect confidence and mutually frank relations. I utterly fail to understand what could occasion these recent letters which have called in question the motives and the consecration of the members of the Mission. I know that we have not deserved this and cannot but feel that your letters have conveyed more of it than is in your heart. We seem to be misunderstood and yet know not why. I think the Mission ever stands ready to lay before you the reasons for its plans and then willingly submit to the Board's veto of any of them but if you doubt that we are planning for anything but what we really consider the best interests of the work, I do not see what we are to do.

Personally I have the greatest confidence in Mr. Gale's consecration and in his assertion that both he & his wife are ready to go anywhere and undertake any work that the Board and Mission may assign them. I do not know what has occasioned your lack of confidence in him, but believing it to be based on misunderstandings I am unwilling to give up my confidence in him.

I know that you will deeply regret that your letters have caused us such a state of uncertainty and concern and I sincerely pray that all misunderstandings may be cleared away and the way opened for full, frank & mutually confident relations without which it seems to me our work cannot possibly succeed. Misunderstandings, suspicion of motives, lack of confidence on the part of the Board and on our past misunderstandings and a fear that we will be judged before we have explained the conditions and reasons for our actions will make almost any missionary's life a failure.

I could not help believing that it was this - more than overwork - more than anything else that led to Dr. Heron's death. I have never known a man more thoroughly unselfish & more thoroughly possessing a consecrated missionary spirit, but irritated & worried & grieved beyond expression at the thought that his motives were questioned, his consecration doubted & his work misunderstood, his mental conflicts more severe from the fact that he was proud spirited wore him out. I would be spared any more such misunderstandings and so write as frankly as I do. Of course I know full well that the Board desires above all things the welfare of the work, peace & harmony in the Mission. And knowing, as I feel that I do, that the Mission deserves your confidence and that we all stand ready to make any sacrifice of personal plans & feelings for the sake of Christ and this people, I plead that our communications may be not only marked by candor and frankness but carried on in mutual confidence.

I have written this prayerfully and only from a sense of duty hoping that it may lead not to confidence in our judgment or approval of our plans but to confidence in our consecration and motives which seems to me to lie at the basis of success in our work. In what I have written about Dr. Heron I am liable to be misunderstood. I do not mean to say that it was not largely his own fault that he was misunderstood - but that he was misunderstood I doubt not, and I wish to do now what I should have done had Dr. Heron lived - work & pray for clear understanding between the Mission & the Board. Believe me that my heart & life are too deeply interested in the success of our cause to write anything in the above from mere personal considerations, and now I will take up the questions which you ask in your letter.

I too was "sadly disappointed at the turn which matters have taken." I did not know that Mr. Underwood would be called home and a doubt cast upon his return. I had no idea that the physicians would be so decided in their objection to the Lower School property. (Dr. Heron and I had talked over the same plan with favor.). Nor did I think we should have to wait until the winter of 1892 for more men (the

six men promised are not yet “huddled in Seoul” tho’ I have been tempted to think you had them so pictured in your mind.) These things have materially altered our plans as they necessarily must have done.

The plan to use the Lower School property for Evangelistic work was but a modification of a plan which has been held in the Mission ever since Mr. Underwood’s return from Japan - nearly two years ago. The advisability of occupying another district in Seoul has I think never been questioned. Several of us have long felt that this foreign settlement is not a place best adapted to meet & work with Koreans. Mr. Underwood several times held back his definite decision to go to another district only until property should be selected & secured. Our medical plans for the Lower School property failing, it becomes available for carrying out the other plan and my judgment has been most unqualifiedly given that we ought at once to have it occupied and work begun - a work which to my mind can be made a most successful one. Such occupation of it by Mr. Gale need not interfere with its use for Medical work if at any time the doctor (with little longer experience on the field) should change his opinion concerning it, nor need the work thus inaugurated by Mr. Gale be thrown away - if as is likely, he should be sent to a station in a year or two, for in that case we ought at once to put another minister in there. Better far, I think, put a man there rather than in this settlement. It is difficult to mention all the little things considered in reaching the final conclusion to ask the Board to so use that property. The case was thoroughly considered in all its bearings as has every question connected with the heavy responsibilities thus early in our missionary life, forced upon us.

I wish to add just this that I may leave nothing undone to avoid another deep blow to our work - viz. that I believe Mr. Gale to be a thorough Presbyterian, sound in every great doctrine which lies at the basis of a consecrated life - a firm believer in the Inspiration of the Scripture, the Calvinistic system of theology, & the necessity of the Holy Spirit’s presence for success in work. He speaks the Korean language better than anyone else on the field and is just finishing a translation of the Acts which bids fair to be the best translation of any book yet given us (judging from Koreans’ comment on the first portions). From him came a very great deal of the Biblical instruction which our converts have received - both before & since his connection with our mission. I believe the Lord will greatly bless & use him in His cause in Korea and I hope no step will be taken towards a severance of his relations with the Mission, a result which would come as a keen disappointment.

Believe me

As ever yours sincerely,

Samuel A. Moffett

[letter printed in the *Missionary Review of the World*]

Will you kindly call the attention of those interested in the suppression of the opium traffic to the fact that Korea furnishes another argument for its suppression.

The class of Koreans who can afford to use opium are already weakened by every kind of sensual indulgence; and now it appears that this worst of all vicious habits is to gain a hold upon them.

I recently spent several weeks in the city of Eui Ju, on the Chinese border, and found that already this habit has gained an entrance, and is rapidly spreading. I learn, also, that in the capital and in the port of Chemulpo [modern Inch'on], the Chinese have established *joints*, which are patronized by Koreans, while the number who secretly use it is reported as increasing.

With almost every other of Satan's devices to meet, we missionaries pray that this traffic may be stopped before it becomes one of the hindrances to the progress of the Gospel in Korea. Please add the voice of helpless Korea to those raised in favor of the suppression of the opium traffic.



